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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 41st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VILCHEZ ASHER (Nicaragua)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 2.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 116: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997 (continued)

Revised estimates under section 1 (Overall policy-making, direction and coordination), section 32 (Staff assessment) and income section 1 (Income from staff assessment) (A/50/7/Add.10; A/C.5/50/40)

1. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the revised estimates related to the provision of a temporary post at the Under-Secretary-General level for the biennium 1996-1997 for a special adviser to the Secretary-General. During the biennium 1994-1995, the post, which had become necessary as a result of the significant increase in the activities relating to good offices, peacemaking, preventive diplomacy and post-conflict peace-building, had been funded on an ad hoc basis under the commitment authority granted in General Assembly resolution 48/229 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenditures. The proposal was in line with the observation of the Advisory Committee that positions required for the performance of functions of a continuing nature should be budgeted in the regular budget for review and approval by the General Assembly through the Advisory Committee. The additional appropriation required under section 1 for the establishment of the post on a temporary basis in 1996 was estimated at $352,200.

2. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee welcomed the request for the regularization of what had been an ad hoc arrangement. The Secretariat should take note of the various comments in the report of ACABQ (A/50/7/Add.10). The Advisory Committee was recommending approval of a temporary post at the Under-Secretary-General level, and was also recommending that such additional appropriation as might be required should be reflected in the performance report for the biennium 1996-1997. No additional appropriation was being recommended at the current stage.

3. The CHAIRMAN said that he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates under section 1 (Overall policy-making, direction and coordination), section 32 (Staff assessment) and income section 1 (Income from staff assessment) and that it should endorse the recommendation of the Advisory Committee thereon.

4. It was so decided.

Integrated Management Information System project: seventh progress report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/50/35)

5. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had welcomed the progress made in implementing the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) project. ACABQ had noted that Release 3, the major component of the system,

would be implemented to run in parallel with existing systems, and that major difficulties were likely to arise.

6. While the Advisory Committee appreciated the complexity of the project, it trusted that the Secretariat would continue to monitor and manage the project in all its aspects so as to ensure that its cost was contained within resources approved by the General Assembly.

7. In its first report on the proposed programme budget (A/50/7), the Advisory Committee had recommended approval of the resources requested for IMIS for the biennium 1996-1997, including the estimate for the maintenance of the system. There was no request for additional resources in the seventh progress report.

8. The question of the number of posts expected to become redundant as a result of the introduction of IMIS had yet to be fully resolved. While the aim of the system was not merely to cut costs, ACABQ expected that increased efficiency and productivity gains as a result of IMIS should considerably reduce the rate of growth of support expenditure.

9. With regard to the identification of additional maintenance posts, the Advisory Committee had been informed that a preliminary total of 20 posts, including 8 redeployed within the Department of Administration and Management, might be released for the maintenance of the system. Thirty-seven posts, with the functions indicated in the progress report, would be needed for maintenance. Before proposals were made for the conversion of the current temporary maintenance posts to established basis, every effort should be made to identify within existing resources the full complement of posts to maintain the system.

10. ACABQ welcomed the information on the use of IMIS by other organizations, and encouraged the Secretariat to promote further use of IMIS in the context of measures to harmonize administrative and budgetary coordination amongst the organizations and programmes of the United Nations system. The Advisory Committee was recommending that the General Assembly should take note of the seventh progress report on the IMIS project.

11. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) noted that IMIS was primarily intended to enhance efficiency and improve internal control, but his delegation hoped that there would also be staff savings. In particular, he wondered whether the $20 million to be expended on IMIS in the upcoming biennium would be offset by savings of a similar magnitude over the same period.

12. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the main aim of IMIS was not to cut costs but to improve the quality and timeliness of information needed for decision-making. While streamlining procedures would produce long-term savings, it was not possible to absorb the cost of the project at the current stage.

13. The CHAIRMAN said that he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of the seventh progress report of the Secretary-General on the Integrated Management

Information System project and endorse the recommendations of the Advisory Committee thereon.

14. It was so decided.

Conditions of service and compensation for officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly: full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/C.5/50/12)

15. Mr. WALTON (Chief, Compensation and Classification Service) said that the annual compensation and pensionable remuneration of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of ICSC and of the Chairman of ACABQ were determined by General Assembly resolutions 45/249 and 46/192. Further to movements in the consumer price index, and pursuant to those resclutions, their annual compensation would be increased from $112,875, plus a special allowance of $8,000 a year for the two Chairmen, to $129,230. Pensionable remuneration would increase from $140,000 for the two Chairmen and $130,000 for the Vice-Chairman of ICSC to $166,300 for the Chairmen and $154,600 for the Vice-Chairman. The Secretary-General was recommending that pensionable remuneration should be adjusted at the same time and by the same percentage as compensation. The financial implications were $128,000 for the biennium.

16. Mrs. GRAHAM (United States of America), supported by Mr. HANSON (Canada), said that it was premature to consider the question in the absence of a written report by the Advisory Committee.

17. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that while it had commented on such matters in the past, some delegations both in the Fifth Committee and in ACABQ had expressed the view that the Advisory Committee should not, in fact, consider such issues. Accordingly, it had not considered the Secretary-General's report. His own view was that the matter should be taken up directly by the Fifth Committee. However, should the Fifth Committee wish the Advisory Committee to consider such matters in future, there would be no difficulty in so doing.

18. Mr. ETUKET (Uganda) said that his delegation saw no reason why the Fifth Committee should not take a decision there and then to approve the Secretary-General's request.

19. Mrs. GRAHAM (United States of America) said that her delegation could not join any consensus on the matter and proposed that it should be deferred until a written report was available from the Advisory Committee.

20. Mr. OWADE (Kenya), supported by Mrs. ARAGON (Philippines), said that there was no need to defer the matter.

21. Ms. BUERGO (Cuba) said that the Fifth Committee was perfectly able to take a decision; it would be inappropriate to defer the matter given the heavy agenda for the resumed session.

22. The CHAIRMAN said that in view of the objection raised the question would be deferred pending informal consultations.

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its organizational and substantive sessions of 1995 (A/C.5/50/31)

23. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the Economic and Social Council, by its resolution 1995/27, had requested a study on issues relating to firearms regulation, in connection with which ad hoc expert group meetings would be held. Pursuant to its resolution 1995/39, the Council had authorized the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to hold additional meetings, while the Council, in its decision 1995/318, had authorized the open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests to extend its 1996 session. As a result there would be additional substantive requirements for the biennium 1996-1997 under sections 7A, 13 and 21 totalling $619,000.

24. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Secretary-General had submitted estimates of $619,000 in substantive costs and $3,004,500 in respect of conference servicing under sections 7A, 13 and 21 for the biennium 1996-1997 for implementation of resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council adopted at its organizational and substantive sessions of 1995. The costs related to a study on firearms regulation; an increase in meetings of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which would hold two annual sessions, and the payment of honoraria to members of that Committee; and the establishment of the open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests. The Advisory Committee agreed with the estimates, but wished to draw attention to its comments on honoraria contained in its first report on the proposed programme budget (A/50/7, paras. 85 and 86).

25. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said such add-on proposals should be considered in the context of the Committee's review of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. In particular he would welcome a more detailed review of the question of honoraria with a view to establishing a firm policy on such payments.

26. The CHAIRMAN said that the matter would be referred to informal consultations.

Revised estimates under section 5 (International Court of Justice: Extension of the premises of the International Court of Justice) (A/50/7/Add.11; A/C.5/50/19)

27. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the International Court of Justice was occupying premises in the Peace Palace at The Hague, under an agreement between the United Nations and the Carnegie Foundation in the Netherlands. As a result of increased workload the Court required additional space. The Secretary-General had originally proposed an amount of $484,900 at 1996-1997 prices in that regard, but, taking into account the fact that the new premises would now be available by 1 January 1997, the estimated requirements for the biennium 1996-1997 came to $346,800.

28. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee was of the view that the additional space requested by the Court for its operations was warranted, in particular from the medium and long-term perspective. The supplementary agreement between the Carnegie Foundation of the Netherlands and the United Nations should be accepted by the General Assembly. Nevertheless he wished to draw attention to the observations of the Advisory Committee on the treatment of inflation in respect of amounts paid by the United Nations for the space occupied by the Court (A/50/7/Add.1, para. 19). That issue had not yet been clarified.

29. The Committee understood that the resources requested were to cover operating expenses only. In future legislative approval should be obtained before work on such projects was started.

30. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said that, in view of the Organization's financial constraints, he would prefer the request to be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

31. Mr. ALOM (Bangladesh) agreed with the United States and asked whether the Secretariat had considered the possibility of renting office space in a building close to the Peace Palace.

32. Mr. DJACTA (Algeria) said that financial constraints should not be used to limit the work of the International Court of Justice. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposal.

33. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the space requirements of the International Court of Justice had increased over the years, a fact which the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had acknowledged. Since looking for additional office space elsewhere would adversely affect the Court's work that idea had been discarded. Similarly, the commercial rental of additional space had also been discarded because it was not a viable alternative. Moreover, on the whole, the United Nations was being granted very favourable rental terms by the Carnegie Foundation.

34. Mr. MENKVELD (Netherlands) said that his delegation supported all the Advisory Committee's recommendations, including the recommendation for securing proper legislative authority before taking action on the expansion of the Court's facilities. As indicated in paragraphs 17 and 18 of the Advisory Committee's report, the Court was provided 66 per cent of the total space of the Peace Palace by the Carnegie Foundation, while the United Nations paid only 21.2 per cent of the operational expenses of the Peace Palace. Those were very beneficial arrangements to the United Nations and he saw no reason to delay the consideration of that issue.

35. Mr. ETUKET (Uganda) said that he was particularly concerned about the treatment of inflation and endorsed the Advisory Committee's comments in paragraph 19 of its report. The procedures set out in General Assembly resolution 41/213 on the treatment of that issue should be strictly adhered to.

36. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that the proposal of the Secretary-General, together with the Advisory Committee's recommendations thereon would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials (A/C.5/50/18; A/50/7/Add.11)

37. Mr. WALTON (Chief, Compensation and Classification Service), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice, pointed out that while the Secretary-General was recommending that annual emoluments of members of the Court be maintained at their current level, there had been an erosion in real terms in the level of emoluments. He was also recommending that the increase in the education grant approved by the General Assembly in resolution 49/223 should be extended to members of the Court.

38. He drew attention to paragraph 23 concerning health insurance and to paragraph 27 which contained recommendations concerning pensions. They had been reviewed and generally supported, in actuarial terms, by a consulting actuary. The financial implications of the recommendations concerning the education grant and pensions could be found in section VI. Finally, the Secretary-General noted that he would favour the three-year cycle of review of the conditions of the Court established by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/250 A.

39. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman, Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report (A/50/7/Add.11) said that the Committee had examined the conditions of service for members of the Court and agreed with the Secretary-General that the annual salary of the members of the Court, the current special allowance paid to the President and the payments to ad hoc judges should remain unchanged. However, it had also recommended that the Secretary-General, taking into account previous studies and debates on the question, should submit proposals on how the emoluments of the members of the Court could be protected against currency fluctuations and so on. The issue of residence versus non-residence should also be addressed as it impacted on the conditions of service of the judges. With respect to the education grant, the Advisory Committee agreed with the proposals of the Secretary-General subject to the comments in paragraph 8 of its report. The Advisory Committee's views on health insurance were in paragraph 10 and, as indicated in paragraph 14, it had again requested a re-examination of the pension scheme. It had had lengthy discussions on the practice of the Court with regard to article 16 of the Statute of the Court and its observations were contained in paragraph 15.

40. Mrs. GRAHAM (United States of America) said that her delegation endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendations, noting that such issues as residence, status, the rationale for pensions for the judges and questions on outside remuneration still needed to be addressed. The Committee should either defer the issue and ask the Secretary-General to address those questions or take a decision approving the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

41. Mr. WALTON (Chief, Compensation and Classification Service), replying to a question from Mr. DJACTA (Algeria), said that he had no further information to give the Committee at that time.

42. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take note of the Secretary-General's report and endorse the report of the Advisory Committee pending the receipt of the information requested by the delegations of the United States and Algeria.

43. It was so decided.

Request for a subvention to the Institute resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research contained in document A/50/416 (A/C.5/50/20)

44. Mr. TAKASU (Controller), introducing the note by the Secretary-General on the request for a subvention to the Institute resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) contained in document A/50/416 (A/C.5/50/20), drew attention to paragraphs 1 and 4. Since the Secretary-General had already included the amount which would be necessary for UNIDIR to continue to operate during the next biennium, the Committee could simply take note of the note by the Secretary-General.

45. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee concurred with the request for the subvention of $220,000 for 1996.

46. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) recalled that when the Committee had addressed the question of funding of regional institutes from the regular budget of the United Nations, his delegation had proposed that the Committee should decide that all funding not under direct United Nations Secretariat control should be terminated and deleted from the 1996-1997 programme budget. Moreover, his delegation had some questions concerning the reasoning in paragraph 26 of the Secretary-General's report on that subject (A/C.5/50/33). For that reason, although UNIDIR was not a regional institute, his delegation believed that the annual subvention of $220,000 for UNIDIR should be terminated as of the end of 1995.

47. Ms. RODSMOEN (Norway), supported by Ms. KORNFEIND (Austria), said that her delegation strongly supported the Secretary-General's proposal for the annual subvention of $220,000 and would endorse the Advisory Committee's recommendation. The Institute had requested the same amount year after year without asking for adjustments for inflation.

48. Mr. ETUKET (Uganda) agreed, adding that no action should be taken on the report on the funding of regional institutes from the regular budget of the United Nations before the General Assembly had made a decision on the various recommendations of that report. Until such decisions were made, the Committee should continue on the basis of the specific legislative mandates emanating from the General Assembly with regard to those institutes.

49. Mr. MONGELLA (United Republic of Tanzania) supported the statements made by the representatives of Norway and Uganda.

50. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the Secretary-General's report on the funding of regional institutes had not addressed the subvention to UNIDIR because UNIDIR had been established as an autonomous institute within the framework of the United Nations. Moreover, the General Assembly had decided that, although voluntary contributions would form the Institute's principal source of income, a subvention towards meeting the administrative costs would be provided from the regular budget of the United Nations and that the actual amount of such subvention would be decided in accordance with article VIII of the Institute's statute. It was therefore clear that the Secretary-General's proposal was very much within that statute.

51. Ms. BUERGO (Cuba) said that it was important to maintain the subvention to the Institute so that it could discharge its functions.

52. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Fifth Committee should recommend the following draft decision to the General Assembly:

"The General Assembly,

"Takes note of the note by the Secretary-General contained in document A/C.5/50/20 and the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions."

53. It was so decided.

54. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said that he had not meant to imply that the report on the funding of regional institutes applied directly to UNIDIR. However, the principles outlined therein in many respects applied to UNIDIR as well as the regional disarmament commissions. For that reason, the Committee had an obligation to examine seriously the use of subventions for bodies which were not under the direct control of the Secretary-General.

International Commission of Inquiry in Burundi (A/C.5/50/45)

55. Mr. TAKASU (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the International Commission of Inquiry in Burundi (A/C.5/50/45), drew attention to paragraph 23, noting that an appropriation request had been made in the second performance report for the biennium 1994-1995 for $1.1 million to provide for the establishment of the International Commission of Inquiry in Burundi. The Secretary-General was now requesting an additional appropriation of $1.2 million under section 2 (Political Affairs) for the period from 1 January to 31 March 1996.

56. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman, Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that during the course of its consideration of the Secretary-General's report, the Advisory Committee had met with representatives of the Secretary-General who had provided it with additional information.

57. The estimated requirements relating to the activities to the Commission during the six-month period from 1 October 1995 to 31 March 1996 amounted to a total of $2,303,000 of which $1.1 million related to the last three months of 1995 and $1.2 million to the first three months of 1996. With respect to the period from 1 October to 31 December 1995, an appropriation request had been made in the second performance report for the biennium 1994-1995 (A/C.5/50/21) for $1.1 million net of staff assessment. With regard to the period from 1 January to 31 March 1996, the Secretary-General proposed an additional appropriation of $1.2 million under section 2 (Political Affairs) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, which would provide for the fees and travel of the five jurists of the Commission, and its Chairman, for salary and common staff costs for 15 civilian international staff and 19 local staff, for the services of five individuals contracted on special service agreements, and for mission subsistence allowance payable to international staff. Amounts were also proposed for travel and for other operational costs.

58. The Advisory Committee had questioned whether the provision for the compensation of the jurists of the Commission and its Chairman was an appropriate item to budget under consultancy. The representatives of the Secretary-General had acknowledged that that provision should have been budgeted under objects of expenditure other than consultants. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee was of the view that the proposed provision for salary and common staff costs of international and local staff should have been budgeted under temporary posts rather than under general temporary assistance.

59. In answer to its question about the level of cooperation between the Commission and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Burundi the Advisory Committee had been informed that, in view of the nature of the responsibilities of both the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Commission, it would not be appropriate to use common premises or to cooperate in other services, such as security, personnel and administration.

60. The Advisory Committee noted the provision of US$ 67,200 for rental of aircraft and, in that connection, reiterated its recommendation in paragraph 9 of its report (A/50/802) on the need to restrict the use of aircraft to essential operational needs.

61. The Advisory Committee also noted the provision of US$ 21,000 for acquisition of equipment. It had asked about the possibility of transferring equipment from UNAMIR and had been informed that 10 vehicles, 3 INMARSAT telephones and several computers had been transferred from UNAMIR, but that some of the computers were not in working condition. The Advisory Committee trusted that attention would be paid to the need to improve procedures regulating the transfer of equipment among United Nations operations.

62. The Advisory Committee recommended approval of an additional appropriation of US$ 1,203,000 under section 2 (Political affairs) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. An additional appropriation of $56,800 would also be required under section 32, to be offset by the same amount under income section 2. It concurred with the statement in paragraph 22 of the report of the Secretary-General that the activities related to the Commission were of an

extraordinary nature and its related requirements should therefore be treated outside the procedures associated with the contingency fund.

63. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said that while his delegation did not contest the Commission's importance, the issue should be discussed in the proper context of the overall review of the budget for the biennium 1996-1997 since a sum well in excess of $1 million was involved.

64. Mr. SERME (Burkina Faso) said that given the urgency of the situation, the Secretary-General's proposal should be accepted.

65. Mr. MONGELLA (United Republic of Tanzania) endorsed the comments of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

66. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that the proposal of the Secretary-General, together with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/50/L.17/Rev.1 concerning agenda items 116 and 45 (A/C.5/50/36)

67. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the present request was similar to the one which the Committee had endorsed in 1994. The Advisory Committee agreed with the Secretary-General's request and recommended approval of the appropriation of $320,300, under section 3, and of $60,900 under section 32 (Staff assessment), offset by the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

68. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said that the matter under discussion was a request for a supplemental appropriation of $320,300 under section 3, which would provide for the services of three staff members for one year and include travel costs. His delegation had supported the draft resolution, although it had been under the impression that no additional funds would be required for its implementation. While his delegation would hesitate to challenge the need for additional United Nations staff in the Central American region, it nevertheless considered it necessary to place those resources in the proper context: the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997. If, within the constraints of the total budget agreed upon, those posts were considered more important than others, the proposal should certainly be approved.

69. Ms. RODSMOEN (Norway), supported by Mr. KELLY (Ireland) and Ms. BUERGO (Cuba), said that her delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposal as recommended by the Advisory Committee.

70. The CHAIRMAN suggested that based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should draft resolution A/50/L.17/Rev.1 be adopted, an additional appropriation of $320,300 would be required under section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. An additional appropriation of $60,900 would also be required under section 32 (Staff assessment) offset by the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

71. Mr. HAMMARSKJÖLD (Sweden) and Mr. TEIRLINCK (Belgium) said that they supported the proposal.

72. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said that while his delegation supported the intents and purposes of the mission, it nevertheless wanted the matter to be considered within the context of the overall budget. His delegation could not ignore the financial implications, despite being a sponsor of the draft resolution.

73. Mr. ETUKET (Uganda) said his delegation supported expeditious action. He said it was clear from paragraph 13 of A/C.5/50/36 that the activities called for in the draft resolution should be dealt with outside the procedures related to the contingency fund. He therefore saw no relationship between the budget implications of the draft resolution and the regular budget.

74. Ms. EMERSON (Portugal) said her delegation, in common with other delegations, supported making a decision on the draft resolution quickly. The sponsors must have been aware of the programme budget implications when the draft resolution had been introduced; they should therefore honour their commitments.

The meeting was suspended at 4.15 p.m. and resumed at 4.25 p.m.

75. The CHAIRMAN said that consideration of A/C.5/50/36 would be deferred.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/50/L.60 concerning agenda items 116 and 20 (d) (A/C.5/50/42)

76. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that according to paragraph 12 of the statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/50/L.60 (A/C.5/50/42), an additional amount of $2,684,400 would be required for the period 1996-1997, consisting of $972,600 for the Special Mission and $1,711,800 for the Office of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan (OSGA). The additional post requirements for the Special Mission were four Political Affairs Officers at P-5 level, to be stationed in four major cities in Afghanistan, and eight local-level staff in addition to the four existing posts (one Under-Secretary-General, two Security Officers and one General Service). With reference to OSGA, the Secretary-General's estimates related to two military observers and 14 temporary posts, in addition to 3 new posts: one at Field Service level and two local level posts. The Advisory Committee recommended approval of the Secretary-General's request, but its recommendation for the provision of new personnel for the Special Mission and OSGA was conditional upon the situation being conducive to the stationing of personnel in the four major cities, and the relocation of OSGA to Kabul. The Advisory Committed noted that the current high expenditure was due to OSGA having to operate from two locations.

77. Adoption of the draft resolution would entail an additional appropriation of $2,684,400 under section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. An additional appropriation of $269,200 would also be required under section 32 (Staff assessment) offset by the same amount under income section 1

(Income from staff assessment). Those amounts would not be governed by the provisions of the contingency fund.

78. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said that the matter should be considered in the context of an overall review of the 1996-1997 budget.

79. Ms. TOMLINSON (United Kingdom) agreed with the United States delegation that the item should be deferred.

80. Mr. KELLY (Ireland), supported by Mr. STEIN (Germany), Mr. YAMAK (Turkey), Mr. WAHAB (Pakistan), Mr. ALOM (Bangladesh, Mr. SCOTTI (France), Mr. KUMAMARU (Japan) and Ms. BUERGO (Cuba) said that his delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposal, but pointed out that there was no provision in the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997 for ad hoc special missions.

81. Mr. ETUKET (Uganda) pointed out that since the Fifth Committee would be presented later with a consolidated statement of programme budget implications, on the basis of which it could make recommendations to the General Assembly, that should meet the concerns of the delegation of the United States. It should therefore be possible to take immediate action.

82. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) pointed out that the consolidated statement was not provided until the end of the session, after the Fifth Committee had taken decisions on all programme budget implications, and that it included only the resources covered by the contingency fund. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/213, it had been agreed that some expenses, including those related to peace and security, should be outside the contingency fund.

83. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that delay in the consideration of programme budget implications in the Fifth Committee could also delay General Assembly action on reports submitted to it by the various intergovernmental bodies. That problem could be avoided if the Fifth Committee informed the General Assembly that adoption of a given resolution would entail a particular amount under the regular budget, that amount to be considered by the General Assembly in the context of the proposed programme budget. The Rapporteur would inform the General Assembly accordingly, and the Fifth Committee could then take its time to consider the amounts proposed by the Secretary-General.

84. Mr. MENKVELD (Netherlands) sought clarification regarding a previous Advisory Committee proposal that no provision should be made in the next budget under section 3 for ad hoc missions. In the 1994-1995 budget, a total of $45 million had been provided for such missions.

85. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the proposal referred to by the representative of the Netherlands did not contradict the procedure he had outlined, which had been followed in the past.

86. Mr. ELZIMAITY (Egypt) supported by Ms. ALMAO (New Zealand), Mr. OWADE (Kenya), Ms. BUERGO (Cuba), Mrs. INCERA (Costa Rica), Mrs. FUENTES-ORELLANO (Guatemala) and Mr. WAHAB (Pakistan) supported Ambassador Mselle's suggestion as the best option, in order to avoid a stalemate.

87. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said it would be helpful to have the traditional formulation and the reformulation proposed by Ambassador Mselle in writing. He wondered what would happen if the final budgetary requirements decided upon by the Fifth Committee were lower than those approved by the plenary.

88. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the proposal he had outlined should not create any difficulties. The Fifth Committee had a budget mandate; the General Assembly would be approving recommendations from main committees, involving policy issues which gave rise to amounts which would be discussed by the Fifth Committee. The two procedures were complementary.

89. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said he would still like to have Ambassador Mselle's proposal in writing, in order to be able to see the difference in the proposed formulations.

The meeting was suspended at 4.55 p.m. and resumed at 5.30 p.m.

90. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) suggested that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that "Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/50/L.60, the estimated cost would not exceed $2,684,400 under section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. Such additional appropriations as may be necessary would be considered by the General Assembly in the context of its approval of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997".

91. Mr. THORNE (United Kingdom) said that his delegation endorsed the wording suggested by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

92. Mr. MENKVELD (Netherlands) said that if the Committee agreed to that wording, it would be sending a message that it had agreed to the stated expenditure. That expenditure would represent an amount over and above the total budget or it would need to be absorbed within the budget, in which case cuts would need to be made elsewhere.

93. Ms. RODSMOEN (Norway) said that her delegation did not understand how the proposal would work, or what would happen if the General Assembly adopted a resolution on the basis of an estimated amount, which the Fifth Committee subsequently decided could not be covered.

94. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the stated amount was merely a ceiling. The final amount of the additional appropriation would be negotiated in informal meetings. It would be an exaggeration to say that missions would be radically scaled down as a result of financial review. General Assembly resolutions explicitly specified requirements which could not be tampered with once the

relevant resolution had been adopted at a plenary meeting. The Fifth Committee could, however, recommend the allocation to a mission of an amount lower than that proposed by the Secretary-General.

95. Mr. HANSON (Canada) said that he shared the concerns raised by other delegations. Specifically, if the General Assembly proceeded to adopt draft resolution A/50/L.60 on the basis of advice containing a dollar figure, there would be a strong assumption that the stated amount would be the sum appropriated.

96. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) said that while he was not entirely satisfied with the wording proposed by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, he was prepared to go along with it in the interests of speeding up the work of the Committee. The General Assembly would thereby be authorized to take a decision but would also be informed that the financial implications of the decision would be negotiated at a later stage. Such an approach should also apply to all similar draft resolutions with programme budget implications.

97. Mr. STEIN (Germany) said that he shared the concern articulated by the Moroccan delegation, and he therefore wished to propose an alternative wording to that suggested by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, namely "Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/50/L.60, an appropriation not to exceed the amount of $2,684,400 would be required under section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. The appropriation would be considered by the General Assembly in the context of its approval of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997".

98. After a procedural discussion in which Ms. RODSMOEN (Norway), Mr. MENKVELD (Netherlands), Mr. ZAHID (Morocco), Mr. ETUKET (Uganda), Mr. MOKTEFI (Algeria), Ms. BUERGO (Cuba), Mr. OWADE (Kenya), Mr. IRAGORRI (Colombia), Mr. ALOM (Bangladesh) and Mr. KUMAMARU (Japan) participated, the CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should adopt the wording suggested by the representative of Germany.

99. It was so decided.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.78 concerning agenda item 96 (a) (A/50/618/Add.1; A/C.5/50/43)

100. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee recommended approval of an additional appropriation of $197,400, as proposed in paragraph 16 of the statement on programme budget implications (A/C.5/50/43).

101. The CHAIRMAN suggested, based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.78, an additional appropriation not to exceed the amount of $197,400 would be required under sections 1 and 7A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. The additional appropriation would be subject to the guidelines for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

102. It was so decided.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.33 concerning agenda item 96 (d) (A/50/618/Add.3; A/C.5/50/39)

103. Mr. TAKASU (Controller), introducing document A/C.5/50/39 containing the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.33 on the protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind recommended to the General Assembly for adoption by the Second Committee in its report A/50/618/Add.3, pointed out that although arrangements for sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change were the responsibility of the Parties, under the terms of the draft resolution the United Nations was to assume responsibility for the conference servicing costs of meetings programmed for 1996; those were estimated at $3,522,200. As no provision had been made for those costs in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, an additional appropriation would be required.

104. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee questioned the basis on which the estimates had been prepared. There was no indication in document A/C.5/50/39 as to how the figures had been arrived at. Therefore, the Advisory Committee recommended that the actual amount required should be considered early in 1996 on the basis of detailed and fully justified cost estimates. In the meantime, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that should it adopt the resolution recommended by the Second Committee, the 1996 related costs of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies were estimated at $3,522,200 on a full cost basis. Preparations for meetings scheduled during the first quarter of 1996 could be initiated on the understanding that such action would in no way prejudge the decisions to be taken by the General Assembly on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

105. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said that it was his understanding that the Convention secretariat was an independent body with responsibility for its own conference servicing arrangements. He therefore wondered whether the estimated conference-servicing costs could not be reimbursed to the United Nations by the Parties to the Convention.

106. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that, while the understanding of the representative of the United States was correct, under the terms of the draft resolution, there was no requirement for the parties to the Convention to reimburse the United Nations.

107. Mr. ETUKET (Uganda) pointed out that the Committee was primarily concerned with budgetary matters and its discussion should therefore be confined to the financial implications of the draft resolution.

108. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) proposed that the Parties to the Convention should be billed for the conference servicing costs.

109. Ms. BUERGO (Cuba), expressed her delegation's support for the draft resolution and for the Secretary-General's request, as presented by the Controller.

110. Mr. STEIN (Germany) reminded the United States delegation that the Second Committee resolution had dealt with the issue of conference services for the time period in question, and he urged that delegation to withdraw its proposal.

111. Mr. RAMLAL (Trinidad and Tobago) expressed his delegation's support for the resolution and for the Secretary-General's request as presented by the Controller. He pointed out that the delegation presently objecting to the funding as proposed by the Advisory Committee had participated in the consensus adoption of the original resolution.

112. Mr. KUMAMARU (Japan) said that his delegation was prepared to support the recommendation of the Advisory Committee.

113. Mr. ETUKET (Uganda), supported by Mr. ELZIMAITY (Egypt), endorsed the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, and reiterated his delegation's desire that the Fifth Committee should, in so far as possible, avoid considering programme budget implications in its informal consultations.

114. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said that his delegation had simply wished to address the question of funding for the Conference. The proposal to charge the participants for the costs of the Conference was, he felt, in keeping with past practice for conferences which were not of purely United Nations origin, and he had been informed by members of the Second Committee that his delegation's position on the present issue was consistent with that of the Second Committee at the time the resolution had been adopted. In any event, his delegation was prepared to support the Advisory Committee's proposal to consider the question of funding at a later date.

115. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that should the General Assembly decide that the conference-servicing costs of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its subsidiary bodies should be met from the regular budget, the related costs were estimated at $3,522,200 at full cost; the actual amount required under section 26E of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, including the need for an additional appropriation, would be considered by the General Assembly when it resumed its work in 1996 on the basis of revised estimates by the Secretary-General. Such an appropriation would be subject to the guidelines for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

116. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 133: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN HAITI (continued) (A/C.5/50/L.10)

Draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.10

117. Ms. PEÑA (Mexico), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.10 on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti, drew attention to paragraph 2, which contained a change from the standard narrative. Under the draft resolution the General Assembly would take note of the outstanding amount of some $78 million in unpaid contributions; would decide, as an ad hoc

arrangement, to apportion an additional amount of $3,644,800 gross for the period from 1 August 1994 to 31 January 1995 among Member States in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989 and subsequent adjustments (para. 6); and would decide further that, for Member States that had fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, their respective share in the unencumbered balance of $1,982,600 gross ($1,915,700 net) should be set off against the apportionment as provided for in paragraph 6 for the period from 1 August 1994 to 31 January 1995 (para. 8) and that for Member States which had not fulfilled their financial obligations, their share of the unencumbered balance should be set off against their outstanding obligations.

118. The General Assembly would decide to appropriate to the Special Account a total amount of $152,011,500 gross for the period from 1 August 1995 to 29 February 1996; authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in connection with the maintenance of the Mission for a three-month period from 1 March to 31 May 1996 at a monthly rate not to exceed $10 million gross and to assess the amount of $20 million gross on Member States in accordance with the scheme set out in the present resolution, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission beyond 29 February 1996.

119. Mr. ACAKPO-SATCHIVI (Secretary of the Committee) drew attention to some editorial changes.

120. The CHAIRMAN said he took it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.10 without a vote.

121. Draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.10 was adopted.

122. Mr. SCOTTI (France), referring to the status of contributions as at 31 October 1995, questioned the need to retain footnote b/ to the table in annex XVII (ST/ADM/SER.B/480), saying that it had been the understanding of his delegation that the agreed changes in the assessment rates of Belarus and Portugal would offset each other without triggering an adjustment in the effective rates of other contributors.

123. Mr. MENKVELD (Netherlands) said that it was his understanding that the assessed contributions of Portugal and Belarus were to have been adjusted on the same time scale, given which he could not see why any problem had arisen.

124. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that had the decision to reclassify Belarus from group B to group C and the decision to reclassify Portugal from group C to group B been adopted the same day the situation would have been simple and the increase in Portugal's contribution would have been offset by a corresponding decrease in the contribution of Belarus. In fact, however, there had been a gap of almost two months between the two resolutions. In July Portugal had begun to pay more than its normal share of peace-keeping operations. In the absence of any guidance from the General Assembly, the Secretariat had had to compensate by making a corresponding adjustment among group A countries. A converse adjustment had been made on the adoption of the second resolution, relating to Belarus, in September. The footnote merely recorded the fact that the effective rate applicable to Belarus and Portugal had been adjusted for the period in

question, and that the corresponding impact of the adjustment had been reflected on group A countries.

AGENDA ITEM 122: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST (continued)

(b) UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON (continued) (A/C.5/50/L.11)

Draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.11

125. Mr. BLUKIS (Latvia), introducing the draft resolution, said that it contained all the new elements contained in the draft resolution on UNMIH. Under the draft resolution, the General Assembly would take note of the outstanding amount of some $216 million in unpaid contributions; would decide to appropriate an amount of $67.4 million gross; and would authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments at a rate not to exceed $10.8 million gross for a period of up to five months beginning on 1 February 1996, and to assess the amount of $32.3 million gross on Member States. He trusted that the Committee would adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

126. Draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.11 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 123: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION (A/50/651 and Add.1-2 and A/50/814)

127. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the performance report for UNAVEM II (A/50/651), covering the period 1 October 1994-8 February 1995, indicated an unencumbered balance of $537,900 gross, to be offset against the next assessment.

128. The General Assembly had appropriated and assessed an initial amount of $150 million in respect of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) for the period 9 February-8 August 1995, and had also authorized commitment authority and assessments of $65.9 million for the period 9 August-31 December 1995. Outstanding assessments currently totalled $40 million. The revised cost estimates for UNAVEM III for the period 9 February-31 December 1995 (A/50/651/Add.1) reflected a reduction of $37 million from the original estimates, resulting in total costs of $268 million for that period. The cost estimates for the period 1 January-30 June 1996 (A/50/651/Add.2) were $171.8 million gross.

129. Accordingly the Secretary-General was proposing that the unencumbered balance of $537,900 should be offset against the following assessment, that an amount of $34.8 million should be appropriated and assessed for the period 9 February-31 December 1995, and that $36.6 million should be appropriated for the period 1 January-8 February 1996. Following that date the Secretary-General was seeking commitment authority and assessment at a monthly rate of $28.2 million, pending submission of the budget estimate for the 12-month period.

130. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee was recommending an appropriation of $250.7 million for the period 9 February-31 December 1995, inclusive of the amounts already appropriated and assessed by the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee was also recommending that an amount of $169.3 million gross should be appropriated for the period 1 January-30 June 1996 and that an amount of $36.7 million should be assessed for the period 1 January-8 February 1996. The Secretary-General should be authorized to enter into commitments and to assess at a monthly rate not to exceed $28,229,100 gross for the period beginning 9 February 1996. The Committee's comments on the financial performance for the period 1 October 1994-8 February 1995 were contained in paragraphs 39 to 41 of its report (A/50/814).

AGENDA ITEM 138: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS (continued)

(a) FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS (continued) (A/50/319 and A/50/798)

131. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the mock-up budget for peace-keeping operations was an important element in the standardization of the budget process and in improving the financing of peace-keeping operations. The mock-up contained a table showing the proposed phasing in of military and civilian personnel for a given operation on a month-by-month basis; a monthly phased budget; a table of statistics and ratios highlighting deviations from standard interrelationships; and an organizational chart. The mock-up sought to translate decisions of the Security Council into operational plans and to establish programmatic links between those decisions and cost estimates. The mock-up relied more heavily on the use of tables to present information more clearly and succinctly. It should be possible from the mock-up to establish the average daily cost of an operation and to make comparisons between missions. Deviations from standard costs would be explained. He trusted that the Committee could endorse the new approach.

132. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that there was no need for the General Assembly to endorse the mock-up, since it would evolve further. The format of any United Nations budget represented a dialogue between the Secretariat, the Advisory Committee and Member States. He suggested that the Fifth Committee might take note of the report of the Secretary-General and concur in the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee. In due course ACABQ would make additional comments and recommendations on the improvement of the format of peace-keeping operation budgets in the context of its reviews of each mission budget.

133. The CHAIRMAN said that he would take it that the Fifth Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the mock-up budget for peace-keeping operations and endorse the recommendations of the Advisory Committee thereon.

134. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 125: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA (A/50/655 and Corr.1-2 and A/50/802)

AGENDA ITEM 126: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN EL SALVADOR (A/49/518/Add.2; A/50/735 and A/50/802)

AGENDA ITEM 131: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS (A/50/722 and Corr.1 and A/50/802)

AGENDA ITEM 132: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN GEORGIA (A/50/731 and A/50/802)

AGENDA ITEM 137: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION OF OBSERVERS IN TAJIKISTAN (A/50/749 and A/50/802)

135. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the performance report of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) for the period 1 October 1994-30 June 1995 (A/50/655 and Corr.1-2) indicated an unencumbered balance of $2.6 million, owing to delays in the work of the Identification Commission. The unencumbered balance would be credited against future assessments. Further to General Assembly resolution 49/247 and action by the Security Council to extend the mandate of MINURSO to 31 January 1996, an amount of $22.3 million had been assessed for the period 1 October 1995-31 January 1996, which the Secretary-General was now proposing to appropriate. The current level of outstanding assessments was $58 million.

136. The financial performance report of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for the period 1 January-30 June 1995 (A/50/722 and Corr.1) indicated overexpenditure of $330,000 gross. The Secretary-General proposed that that amount should be approved on the understanding that one third would come from voluntary contributions, leaving $218,067 to be assessed and appropriated. An amount of $3.4 million in assessments was outstanding.

137. The performance report for the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) for the period 14 January-15 May 1995 (A/50/731) indicated an unencumbered balance of $1.9 million. In view of the fact that there was a substantial amount, namely $2.3 million, in outstanding contributions, the Secretary-General proposed that the unencumbered balance should be retained.

138. The performance report of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) for the period 16 December 1994-16 June 1995 (A/50/749) indicated an unencumbered balance of $378,600 gross. As a result of additional requirements arising in connection with the establishment of a seventh out-station and the proposed establishment of a new liaison post, as well as the relatively high level of outstanding contributions, the Secretary-General proposed that the unencumbered balance should be retained.

139. The financial performance reports of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) for the last mandate period of 1 December 1994-30 April 1995 and the liquidation period of 1-31 May 1995 (A/50/735) indicated additional requirements of $826,000 for the last mandate period and $16,300 for the liquidation phase. The Secretary-General was requesting approval of the

additional requirements without additional assessments pending the preparation of the final performance report, to be submitted at the resumed session.

140. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) suggested that the Fifth Committee should concur in the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraphs 3 to 13 of its report (A/50/802).

141. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it should adopt the following draft decision in respect of MINURSO:

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

"(a) Decides to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara the amount of $22,370,000 gross ($20,384,400 net) already authorized and apportioned for the period from 1 October 1995 to 31 January 1996 under the provision of General Assembly resolution 49/247 of 20 July 1995;

"(b) Also decides to set off against future assessment relating to any mandate period approved by the Security Council beyond 31 January 1996, the respective share of Member States in the unencumbered balance of $2,618,600 gross ($2,217,800 net) for the period from 1 October 1994 to 30 June 1995, inclusive."

142. Mr. SCOTTI (France) said that the draft resolution adopted on UNMIH had dealt with the unencumbered balance in two different ways: the share of States that were up to date in their payments would be offset against future assessments; the share of States in arrears would be offset against outstanding obligations. The draft decision before the Committee should be amended to reflect the same approach.

143. Mr. MENKVELD (Netherlands) agreed that the change in the standard language relating to unencumbered balances incorporated in the draft resolution on UNMIH should be reflected in the draft decision on MINURSO now before the Committee.

144. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the General Assembly, in its resolution 49/247, had authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments with respect to MINURSO at a monthly rate not to exceed $5.59 million and to assess that amount on Member States subject to extension of the mandate. Since the resolution was open-ended there was no need for further action by the Assembly should the Security Council extend the mandate beyond 31 January 1996. The Secretary-General already had authority to go to the Advisory Committee to seek additional resources if necessary.

145. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) said that, in the light of the clarifications by Mr. Takasu, he was able to accept the proposal made by the representative of France and supported by the representative of the Netherlands.

146. The draft decision, as orally amended, was adopted.

147. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it should adopt the following draft decision in respect of ONUSAL:

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and pending the submission of the final performance report for the Observer Mission in the first quarter of 1996,

"Decides that the additional requirements of $842,300 gross ($763,000 net) for the operation of ONUSAL for the period from 1 December 1994 to 31 May 1995 will be financed from savings from prior mandate periods."

148. The draft decision was adopted.

149. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it should adopt the following draft decision in respect of UNFICYP:

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

"Endorses the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee and, in particular, paragraph 41 thereof."

150. The draft decision was adopted.

151. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it should adopt the following draft decision in respect of UNOMIG:

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

"Decides to retain the unencumbered balance of $1,966,500 gross ($1,858,600 net) for the period from 14 January to 15 May 1995, inclusive, in the UNOMIG special account in view of the outstanding assessed contributions."

152. Mr. MENKVELD (Netherlands) proposed that the draft decision should be amended to bring it into line with the changes made to the draft decision on the financing of MINURSO with regard to the unencumbered balance.

153. The draft decision, as orally amended, was adopted.

154. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it should adopt the following draft decision in respect of UNMOT:

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

"Decides to retain the unencumbered balance of $378,600 gross ($373,800 net) for the period from 16 December 1994 to 16 June 1995, inclusive, in the UNMOT special account in view of the additional requirements which will result from the establishment of posts in Vanj and Taloqan."

155. The draft decision was adopted.

156. The CHAIRMAN said he took it that the Committee concurred with the observations in paragraphs 3-13 in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/50/802).

157. It was so decided.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

158. Mr. ELZIMAITY (Egypt), supported by Mr. JU Kuilin (China), Ms. BUERGO (Cuba) and Mr. MOKTEFI (Algeria), requested that, in view of the pressure of time, scheduled consideration of agenda items 118 and 149 should be deferred until the Committee resumed its work the following spring.

159. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 8.30 p.m.